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ABSTRACT

This manual, which incorporates a developmental perspective, targets child and youth care workers and foster parents who are ready to enhance their practical skills in providing care and treatment for young people who have been sexually abused. Users of this manual should have some previous understanding in human growth and development, effective parenting skills, assertiveness skills, and child abuse. After explaining definitions, terminology, framework, philosophy, and use, the manual unfolds in six chapters. Chapter 1 looks at the global perspective of sexual abuse, when and where it occurs. Chapter 2 examines the relationship between normal development and vulnerability, along with the signs and the impact of sexual abuse on the young person. The third chapter discusses the healing process, with thoughts on disclosure and grieving. Chapters 4 and 5 center on the caregiver and include aspects of communication skills, self-awareness, support systems, relationships, and the caregiver's role. The sixth chapter explores ideas on responding to a crisis and increasing resiliency as ways to provide a supportive and protective environment. Two supplemental chapters profile children's sexualized behaviors and offer strategies on group therapy. References, a list of other manuals and training resources, and a bibliography are provided. (RJM)

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